

Mini project for Y11s hoping to study A Level English Literature

These projects can be submitted to manganh@beck.uk.com

English Literature AS and A Level includes a range of texts and writers from different backgrounds and these tasks will support your understanding of key terminology and contextual issues.

It would be very useful if you could read *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy (available free online for now or can be purchased second hand very reasonably) and *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller.

Research tasks

Please research extensively the following, ensuring you fully understand the lives, issues and facts:

- Tragedy as a genre (Tragedy meaning a particular structure of literature not something 'tragic/sad')

Where does tragedy as a genre come from?

What are some early playwrights who inspired later tragedies?

What are the conventions of tragedy?

- The American Dream

- The Industrial Revolution in England and the effect on rural communities
- The life of Thomas Hardy

Consider his upbringing.

Consider the part of England he was raised in and felt such an affinity for.

Consider his relationship with his wife Emma Gifford and their conflict.

- The life of Arthur Miller
- The history of the landmark Stonehenge
- The context of Shakespeare's play 'Othello'
- The term 'Wessex'

Find the definitions of the following terms:

Hubris

Hamartia
Nouveau riche
Aristocratic
Rural
Modernity
Poignant
Agricultural
Vengeance
Transcend
Peripeteia
Catharsis
Chorus figures
Domestic
Fate
Apathy
Denouement
Disillusioned
Patriarchal

****Please try to read as much of the first phase of Tess of the d'Urbervilles (the first phase includes chapters 1-11/I-VI).****

Discussion questions based on chapters 1-11

- **What family struggles does Tess have?**
- **What economic struggles does Tess have?**
- **Describe the different settings within this phases – how could they be symbolic of the stage in Tess’s life?**
- **Why is the death of Prince so significant?**
- **Does it seem as if Tess has any freedom or do you believe he is at the mercy of other characters/factors?**

Please also review your poetry terminology from studying the anthology as this will be crucial when we begin Thomas Hardy’s poetry.

Finally – we encourage you to read as widely as possible. Reading for pleasure is so valuable so please read anything you are interested in alongside these studies.

Take care,

Miss Mangan